

MARPLE
Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

—OF—

HARRY BURTON,

M.D., Durham; M.R.C.S., Eng.; L.S.A., Lond.; L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year 1912.



R. Wood, Printer, Marple Bridge.

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MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Marple Urban District Council.

Sir and Gentlemen,

This is the fifteenth occasion upon which I have had the pleasure of submitting to your notice my Annual Report.

The area of your district is 3,053 acres urban and rural. The district of Marple, including portion of Strines and High Lane, is a hilly one, being built chiefly upon a slope with a west and north-west aspect.

The height above sea level varies from 450 to 633 feet. It is well wooded and drained, and although the sub-soil is clay with occasional faults of sand and gravel, yet owing to the natural drainage it is fairly dry and healthy. The locality is chiefly residential, containing only three mills and a few small works, the remainder of the village consisting of fairly large houses belonging to people with businesses elsewhere. The chief industry is cotton spinning and manufacturing.

The cottages are mostly of a very good type with plenty of room and ventilation, and most of the previous over-crowding has been done away with.

The population at the last Census was 6,250, and I now estimate it at 6,390.

We are still endeavouring to improve the sewerage and drainage in this district. A short length in Stockport Road is, I believe, to be soon rectified. The flushing of the dead ends of flat sewers may be sufficient in a damp summer like our last one, but in dry weather the whole length of sewers should be periodically flushed. The sewage works will require to be altered ere long, as they are becoming much too small for the amount of sewage. I see that your Inspector is recommending more land filtration, which I hope will assist greatly.

Three samples of water from outfall were taken by the Government Inspector, and all were satisfactory. The disposal of excrement in this district is by three methods, viz., water carriage, pails,

and middens. We are trying to convert privy middens into water closets as quickly as possible, 466 having been thus altered in six years.

There are still about 833 middens not converted, and this work should be pushed on as rapidly as possible.

The pails and middens are emptied by the Council men as quickly as possible, but the result is not altogether satisfactory. The ashbins and pails are collected weekly, the number of ashbins has increased rapidly, 691 now compared with 90 six years ago.

All the refuse is deposited on tips in various parts of the district.

The water supply of Marple is from Lyme, Cheshire reservoirs, and belongs to the Stockport Corporation. It is now obtained from the new Kinder waterworks, the consumption amounting to 26,000,000 gallons. The quality of the water is good, but some of the old pipes are becoming incrustated and will require renovating. No complaints have been made as to impure springs or wells this year.

INFANTILE DEATH RATE.

I have much pleasure in informing you that the Infantile Death Rate is one of the lowest we have ever had, viz., 48.8.

This is very satisfactory, especially as included amongst the deaths were two caused by being born prematurely.

Last year the rate was 162.3.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

We have had very few infectious notifiable diseases this year, viz. :—

Scarlet Fever.....	4 cases	Membranous Croup..	1 case.
Typhoid Fever.....	1 case	Erysipelas.....	1 case.
Diphtheria.....	3 cases		

There has been an epidemic of Measles in the district. The schools have been fumigated, and I think it will be better to systematically fumigate and disinfect all the schools in the district at least twice a year.

Whooping Cough : A few cases.

Phthisis : Two deaths only from this disease.

Under the new Tuberculosis Act we shall no doubt obtain early notification of cases, and can take measures to arrest the spread of the disease. There are no Sanatoria in this district.

TABLE I.

MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1912 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1000 nett Births.	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1907	5750	116	116	21.1	79	13.7	14	131.6
1908	5800	115	115	19.8	80	13.7	..	10	12	104.3	90	15.5
1909	5800	125	125	21.05	78	14.4	..	4	9	72.8	82	14.0
1910	5800	124	124	21.3	66	11.3	..	6	5	40.3	72	21.4
1911	6100	115	117	19.1	86	14.2	..	6	20	162.3	92	15.08
1912	6300	104	105	16.6	73	11.58	..	6	5	48.8	79	12.53

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 3,053. Total population at all ages, 6,300.

Number of inhabited houses, 1,405. Average number of persons per house, 4.44.

TABLE II.

MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1912.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards
Small-pox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	4		1	3				
Erysipelas.....	1							
Scarlet Fever.....	4		2	2				
Typhus Fever								
Enteric Fever	1					1		
Relapsing Fever								
Continued Fever								
Puerperal Fever								
Plague								
Phthisis								
TOTALS	10		3	5		1		

Cases removed to Hospital: Diphtheria, 3; Enteric Fever, 1; total, 4.

Isolation Hospital: Hyde.

Total available beds: 2

TABLE III.

MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1912.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District								
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and up- wards
Enteric Fever									
Small-pox									
Measles	3		2	1					
Scarlet Fever.....									
Whooping Cough									
Diphtheria and Croup	2			1	1				
Epidemic Influenza									
Cholera									
Puerperal Fever									
Erysipelas.....									
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis.)	2						1	1	
Tuberculous Meningitis	1		1						
Other Tubercular Diseases..	1			1					
Rheumatic Fever.....									
Cancer, Malignant Disease..	7							6	1
Organic Heart Disease	13							8	5
Bronchitis.....	14	2					1	4	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	2					1			1
Other Diseases of Respira- tory Organs									
Diarrhoea and Enteritis									
Appendicitis and Typhlitis.									
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	1							1	
Alcoholism	1						1		
Nephritis & Bright's Disease									
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, including Prem- ature Birth.....	3	2		1					
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	1								1
Suicide	1								1
Other Defined Diseases	27								
Diseases ill-defined or un- known									
All causes.....	79								

TABLE IV.

MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1912

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-8 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under One Year
<i>All Causes :—</i>										
Certified										
Uncertified										
<i>Common Infectious Diseases :</i>										
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever.....										
Whooping Cough										
Diphtheria : Croup										
Erysipelis										
<i>Diarrhœal Diseases :</i>										
Diarrhœa,										
Enteritis,										
Gastro-enteritis										
Gastritis, Gastrointestinal										
Catarrh										
<i>Wasting Diseases :</i>										
Premature Birth.....	1	1								2
Congenital Defects										
Injury at Birth										
Want of Breast-milk										
Atrophy, Debility, Maras-										
mus										
Atelectasis										
<i>Tuberculous Diseases :</i>										
Tuberculous Peritonitis : ..										
Tabes Mesenterica.										
Other Tuberular Diseases										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)..										
Convulsions				1						1
Bronchitis.....		1					1			2
Laryngitis.....										
Pneumonia, all forms										
Suffocation, overlying										
Other causes										

Births in the year:—Legitimate 101 ; Illegitimate, 4.

Deaths in the year:—Legitimate Infants, 5

The following adoptive Acts are in force :—

Infectious Disease Notification Act.
Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1909.
Tuberculosis Act, 1912.

BYE-LAWS.

New Streets and Buildings.
Common Lodging-house.
Slaughter-houses.
Cleansing and Scavenging.
Offensive Trades.
Hackney Carriages, 1909.

The dairies and cowsheds have been periodically inspected and nuisances rectified. They are on the whole healthy.

All the factories, bakehouses, workshops, and schools, have been inspected, and all have been found in a satisfactory condition.

The following nuisances have been dealt with, viz. :—

Defective drains.....	71
Privies converted to w.c.'s.....	52
Improper ashpits.....	5
Structural defects.....	7
Defective pavings.....	4
Defects in dairies.....	3
Improper water supply.....	1
Fouling water supply.....	1
Overcrowding.....	1
Accumulation of refuse.....	3
Insanitary conditions.....	1
Bakehouse defects.....	1
Slaughter-house defects.....	1
Workshop defects.....	3
Food seized and destroyed.....	1
Dangerous building.....	1

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Thirty nuisances have still to be abated.

METEROLOGICAL.

January.....	2.81	inches rain fell on	16	days.
February.....	1.01	„ „	14	„
March.....	4.34	„ „	26	„
April.....	0.79	„ „	5	„
May.....	2.69	„ „	15	„
June.....	4.06	„ „	25	„
July.....	3.21	„ „	14	„
August.....	6.51	„ „	26	„
September.....	1.85	„ „	9	„
October.....	2.77	„ „	12	„
November.....	2.39	„ „	16	„
December.....	4.39	„ „	21	„

Total rainfall in year 36.82, and rain fell on 199 days. Average for the last 56 years, 33.50.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

There are eleven factories and thirty-three workshops in the district. These have been periodically visited and inspected. In three cases defects were discovered and rectified. All the rest were clean and healthy and had conformed to the rules with regard to cubic space, ventilation, overcrowding, lime-washing, and cleanliness. There are no privies in these places ; all water closets. There are ten bakehouses in the district. Only one nuisance was found and soon abated. All were clean and whitewashed. There are five slaughter-houses in Marple. On one occasion only was a nuisance discovered. These places have been periodically inspected. No cases occurred of overcrowding or illegal employment of girls.

Forty-one canal boats were inspected and in four cases nuisances were discovered.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Veterinary Inspector for Cattle.
2. More regular flushing of sewers.
3. More sewer ventilation.
4. More land at Sewage Works.
5. Notification of measles.
6. More thorough disinfection of schools.
7. An improvement in the condition of some of the private streets, such as Derby Street, Waine's Avenue, as these are not conducive to good health.

In conclusion, gentlemen, allow me to point out that this report is evidently a satisfactory one, viz.,

The very low infantile death rate,
The few cases of infectious diseases, and
The low death rate from Phthisis.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HARRY BURTON,

*M.D. Durham, M.R.C.S. Eng.
L.S.A. Lond., L.R.C.P., etc.*

APPENDIX TO REPORT.

Summary of Sanitary Work during the Year 1912.

I.—ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Have any of the undernamed Acts been adopted by your Council during 1912 ?

1. Infectious Diseases Prevention Act ?—Adopted 1895.
2. Notification of Births Act ?
3. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 ?—Sections in force :
15 to 25, 27 to 38, 43 to 67, 69 to 77, 92 to 95, became in force April 23, 1912.
4. Other Adoptive Acts ?

II.—BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

State subject matter of any new Bye-Laws or Regulations brought into force during 1912. A copy of any new Bye-Laws or Regulations would be acceptable.

III.—MILK SUPPLY.

1. Number of Registered Premises at close of 1912 :—
 - (a) Dairies.
 - (b) Cowsheds, 46. 34 inspected during 1912.
 - (c) Milkshops.
2. Number of Notices served for non-compliance with Regulations ?—3.
3. Number of Legal Actions taken for non-compliance with Notices, &c. ?

IV.—FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Is this systematically carried out in your District ?—Yes.
2. Number of Slaughterhouses in your District :—
 - (a) Public ?—
 - (b) Private ?—5.
3. Number of inspections made of Slaughterhouses during 1912 :—
 - (a) Public ?—
 - (b) Private ?—10.
4. Are systematic inspections made of premises other than Slaughterhouses where food is produced or sold ? If so, please state generally nature of premises so inspected.—Bakehouses, butchers' shops, confectioners, tripe, and sausage shops.

V.—WATER SUPPLY.

1. Have any extensions been carried out during 1912 ? If so, please append brief note.—Water mains extended on Ley Hey Park and Nab Top Lane.
2. Number of Samples analysed during 1912.
3. Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper supply ?—Dooley Lane.

VI.—POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

In your opinion are any Rivers or Streams in your District polluted, or likely to be polluted at times, by any of the following ?—

- (a) Public Sewage Disposal Works.
- (b) Private Sewage Disposal Works.
- (c) Solid matter (accumulations of cinders, refuse, sludge, &c.)
- (d) House Drainage.
- (e) Manufacturing Waste or Effluents.

VII.—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

1. Specify any new works of sewerage carried out during 1912.—Nil.
2. Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper system of sewers?—
3. By what system is sewage disposed of?—Septic tanks and land.
4. Have there been any complaints to your knowledge during 1912 as to the disposal works?—No complaint.
5. Have any alterations or extensions taken place to your knowledge in the disposal works during 1912?—No.

VIII.—SCAVENGING.

1. By whom is this carried out?—The Council, by direct employment of labour.
2. Approximate number of the following in your district :—

		How frequently scavenged ?
(a) Midden-privies.....	861	Varies from 14 days to 3 months.
(b) Dry Ashpits	196	„ „ „
(c) Pail Closets.....	114	Weekly.
(d) Dustbins.....	691	„
(e) Cesspools	20	When necessary.
3. Is the present system in your opinion inadequate in any respect ?

IX.—HOUSING.

1. Number of new houses built during 1912.—10.
2. Number of dwelling-houses inspected under s. 17 Act of 1909.—86.
3. Number of such houses considered unfit for habitation.—None.
4. Number of representations made to Local Authority.—None.
5. Number of closing orders made by Local Authority.—None.
6. Number of houses where defects remedied WITHOUT closing orders being made.—35.
7. Number of houses where defects remedied AFTER closing orders made.—None.
8. Estimated or ascertained number of houses WITHIN LIMITS OF RENT IN S. 14 OF ACT OF 1909.
9. Number of such houses in respect of which notice was served during 1912.
10. Number of such houses closed after notice.—None.
11. Number of such houses where Local Authority has executed necessary repairs, &c.—None.
12. Approximate number of back-to-back houses in district.—46.
13. Approximate number of cellar dwellings in district.—None.

X.—PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

Kindly state action taken during 1912 under following heads :—

1. Sanitary Inspection of patients' houses.—9.
2. Disinfection of ditto.—
3. Distribution of circulars containing advice.—10.
4. Action to prevent spitting.
5. Provision of shelters.
6. Supply of disinfectant.—10.
7. Supply of sputum-flasks, paper handkerchiefs, &c.
8. Visitation by Nurses or Health Visitors.

(Signed) HARRY BURTON.

February 22nd, 1913.

Tabular Statement of Inspections for the Year ended December 31st, 1912.

Number and Nature of Inspections made.	Number.	No. of Notices served.		Result of Service of Notices.			
		Statutory.	Informal.	Notices complied with.	Remaining in hand.	Prosecutions.	
						Instituted.	Pending.
1. Dwelling-houses (general inspections)	496	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Cellar Dwellings	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Back-to-Back Houses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Courts, Yards, Passages	77	—	77	52	25	1	—
6. Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Cesspools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. House Drainage	81	—	81	74	7	—	—
9. Ditches, Watercourses, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Offensive Accumulations	3	—	3	3	—	—	—
11. The keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Offensive Trades.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Slaughter-houses (Public)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Private)	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Piggeries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. (a) Dairies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Cowsheds	3	—	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Milkshops.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. (a) Factories	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Workshops	3	—	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Workplaces	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Outworkers' Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Bakehouses (Overground)	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
(Underground)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Common Lodging-houses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Houses let in Lodgings	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Smoke Observations	32	—	—	—	—	—	—
21. Canal Boats.	41	4	—	4	—	—	—
22. Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.	265	4	169	141	32	1	—

MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Surveyor and Inspector's Report.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay before you my report for the year ending December, 1912.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

I have from time to time inspected various premises for the purpose of ascertaining the existence of sanitary defects, with the result that 188 defects have been discovered, of which 156 have been remedied, the remaining 32 being still in hand.

In most cases the owners carry out the necessary works without delay, but in 14 cases it was necessary to serve statutory notices, and in one case it was necessary to apply to the Courts for power to enter the premises to execute the works.

Particular attention has been directed to the conversion of privy middens into water closets, with the result that 52 have been converted, making a total of 466 conversions in six years.

The nuisances dealt with were as follows :—

Defective drains.....	71
Privies converted into water closets...	52
Improper ashpits.....	5
Structural defects.....	7
Defective pavings.....	4
Defects in dairies.....	3
Improper water supply.....	1
Fouling water supply.....	1
Overcrowding.....	1
Accumulation of refuse.....	3
Insanitary conditions.....	1
Bakehouse defects.....	1

Slaughter-house defects.....	1
Workshop defects.....	3
Food seized and destroyed.....	1
Dangerous buildings.....	1

Total nuisances abated	156
Nuisances not abated.....	32

Total.....	188

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

The number of dwellings inspected under this Act during the year was.....	86
The number of dwellings considered unfit for human habitation was.....	0
The number of representations to the Council with a view to making Closing Orders was.....	0
The number of defects remedied without making Closing Orders was	89

COLLECTION OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This work is carried out by direct employment of labour. The privies and ashpits are emptied periodically, varying from two weeks to twelve weeks, the contents being deposited on convenient tips in various parts of the district.

The ashbins and pail closets are collected weekly.

The work of collecting ashbins continues to increase, there now being 691 compared with 90 six years ago.

The number of privy middens in the district is estimated at 833.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year ten cases of infectious disease have been notified, consisting of four cases of Scarlet Fever, four cases of Diphtheria, one case of Typhoid, and one case of Erysipelas. Three cases of Diphtheria and one case of Typhoid Fever were sent to the Hospital, the remaining cases being nursed at home.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The dairies and cowsheds have been inspected from time to time, and in three cases it was necessary to write to the owners to secure the abatement of nuisances.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are ten bakehouses in the district ; these have been frequently inspected. In one case only it was found necessary to write to the occupier to secure the abatement of a nuisance.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are five slaughter-houses in the district : these have been frequently inspected and on one occasion only was a nuisance discovered.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 11 factories and 33 workshops in the district ; these have been inspected from time to time, 3 defects being discovered.

CANAL BOATS.

The inspection of canal boats has been attended to. Forty-one boats have been inspected and in four cases it was necessary to write to the owners to remedy defects.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

Observations have been taken on 32 occasions of one hour duration, and on no occasion was the limit of eight minutes exceeded.

SEWERS.

The sewers have been periodically examined, and with the exception of a short length in Stockport Road appear in good order and sufficient for their work. Plans and estimates for the reconstruction of the defective sewer in Stockport Road have been prepared and considered by the Committee, who have resolved to recommend the Council to execute the work as soon as possible.

FLUSHING.

The present practice is to flush the dead end of the sewers and the sewers that have flat gradients. This practice may be sufficient in wet weather, but in dry weather it is necessary to flush the whole system regularly.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans for five new houses and 21 other buildings have been approved during the year. Ten houses have been certified fit for habitation.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The works for the purification of sewage (that is, sewage up to three times dry weather flow) consist of screening chamber of 6,000 gallons capacity, septic tanks of 95,000 gallons capacity, primary filters 600 yards superficial, secondary filters of 500 yards superficial area, and three acres of land. The works dealing with the storm water above three times dry weather flow consist of two tanks having a total capacity of 80,000 gallons. The amount of sewage flowing to the works is 130,000 gallons per day. Considerable difficulty has been experienced during the past year in dealing with amount of sewage and the sludge from the tanks, in order to meet this difficulty it will be necessary to provide more sludge beds and to construct a fairly large land filter, this land filter being made by removing the soil from the land down to the gravel sub-soil, laying sub-soil drains and making up to the required level with engine ashes.

Three samples have been taken by the Rivers Board Inspector, all of which were satisfactory.

The sale of crops grown on the disposal works land realised £8.

RECREATION GROUND.

The above grounds have been maintained in good condition, no works of a special character have been carried out during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is now obtained from the Stockport's new works at Kinder and the consumption amounted to 26,000,000 gallons. No serious difficulty has been experienced with the water supply during the year, the consumption has been normal, the underground waste has been carefully watched, for which purpose ten night inspections have been made, with the result that 37 underground leakages have been located and repaired. In addition to underground leakages, 35 above ground leakages and 307 defective taps have been located and repaired.

Considerable attention has been given to suspected water meters. 115 of such meters having been tested, of which only four were found to be recording correctly, the number of tests made during the year being 264.

WATER MAINS.

Some of the water mains, which were laid in 1884 when the water works were installed, are now so badly incrustated that the capacity of the pipes is reduced by two-thirds. These mains should either be replaced by new or should be scraped.

MAIN ROADS.

The condition of the main roads continues to improve. The practice of your Highways Committee of making stronger roads by the application of heavy coats of tarred macadam on all suitable gradients will in the course of a few years make the said roads suitable to carry the increasing heavy motor traffic without creating a serious dust nuisance.

The attention of your Committee should be directed to the dangerous bend on Brabyns Brow, this brow having a gradient of about 1 in 10, is very dangerous to all kinds of traffic, in fact, several fatal accidents have occurred at this spot, and it is evident that the brow would be much safer if the bend was widened. I am of opinion that for such an improvement the assistance of the County Council and the Road Board would be readily obtained.

DISTRICT ROADS.

The district roads have been maintained up to their usual standard and are in fair condition.

TOWN PLANNING.

I would again draw the attention of the Council to the advantages to be gained under this Act.

Under this Act they have power (subject to the approval of the Local Government Board) to prepare a TOWN PLAN, which, when approved, has the effect as an Act of Parliament. By means of the Town Plan the Council would be able to decide—

- (1) The position and direction of new streets.
- (2) The width of new streets.
- (3) The class of house to be built in certain areas.
- (4) The position of works, factories, schools, public buildings, open spaces and playing fields.
- (5) The number of houses to the acre.

The above are a few of the additional powers given to Local Authorities, and are sufficient to show the importance and far-reaching effect of the Act: in fact, Local Authorities are now able to design extensions to their towns or village instead of as in the past being compelled to allow it to grow uncontrolled.

The first point for the Council to decide is whether a Town Planning Scheme is necessary.

In order to arrive at a satisfactory decision, it is necessary to investigate how the district has developed in recent years. This is not a difficult matter, and one is forced to admit that

1. It is the general practice to crowd as many houses on a plot of land as is allowed by the Bye-Laws.
2. That the bulk of the present buildings are situated on the old highways of the district, leaving the land between the highways undeveloped.

These two points are to my mind sufficient to decide that a TOWN PLAN is necessary ; and, further, I am of opinion that Marple is in a particularly suitable condition for the Town Planning Act to be applied with great success, my reasons being as follows :—

1. That the bulk of the present houses are built on the old highways, and the land behind the houses is undeveloped ; and, if this land is left to speculative builders to develop, the result will probably be rows of houses crowded as close together as the Bye-Laws will allow.
2. That a Town Plan should be prepared before large estates are broken up, as it is evident that it would be better to deal with one large owner than with several small owners.
3. That several of the present roads need widening, and this should be done before more buildings are erected or plots sold.
4. That at least one estate in this district has been surveyed and plotted out for houses with the minimum air space.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. J. DIVER,

Surveyor and Inspector.

Jan. 22, 1913.

